

Application No. 10/088,741  
Reply dated February 18, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated November 18, 2003

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

#### Description of amendments

Claims 1-7, 9-16, and 18-27 are now pending and under examination. Applicant has amended claim 4, added new claims 25-27, and deleted claims 8 and 17. No new matter has been added.

#### Objection to the drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the claimed invention. The objection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the claims (i.e. claims 8 and 17) containing the limitation which was allegedly not shown in the drawings.

#### Objection to the claims

Claim 4 was objected to for containing informalities. Applicant has amended claim 4 to overcome the informalities.

#### Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite has been overcome by the amendments to claim 4.

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Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4 and 6-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Smith (U.S. Patent 4,935,850). For the following reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

As stated in the specification (see the second paragraph on page 2) and shown in the drawings (see Figures 2-4b), a "core idea of the invention is to change and emphasize the representation of the graphic information in an area where the actual position of the indicator element is (emphasis added)." Therefore, each independent claim recites an area around the position of the indicator element, in which the graphic information is emphasized. As a result of the emphasis, a viewer is automatically directed to the area of the scale where the indicator element is situated, and the viewer can rapidly and reliably recognize the information supplied by the indicator element.

In Smith, on the other hand, the illuminated area is not around the position of the indicator element and is not focused on the indicator element. Instead, the illuminated area in Smith is the entire area to the left of the indicator element.

Therefore, claims 1-4 and 6-24, as well as new claims 25-27, are not anticipated by Smith.

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Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

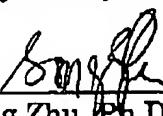
Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith in view of Patterson (U.S. Patent 4,814,757). For the same reasons as discussed above, claim 5 is patentable over the cited references.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (CAM # 080437.50921US).

Respectfully submitted,

February 18, 2004

  
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